

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEM AND CAMERA SYSTEM

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application is based upon and claims the  
benefit of priority from the prior Japanese Patent  
Application No. 11-181599, filed June 28, 1999, the  
entire contents of which are incorporated herein by  
reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 The present invention relates to an information  
processing system and a camera system, and more  
particularly to an information processing system  
comprising a radio (or wireless) communication terminal  
and an information appliance communicable with the  
15 radio communication terminal, for example, within  
a predetermined distance, such as about one meter,  
and a camera system comprising a radio (or wireless)  
communication medium and a camera communicable with  
the radio communication medium within a predetermined  
20 distance wherein each information processing system and  
camera system authorizes an information appliance user  
and a camera user, or a subject, or both of them.

Conventionally, as methods taking photographer  
information in an image photographed by means of  
25 a camera, the method in which a password is inputted  
at the time of camera photographing (Jpn. Pat. Appln.  
KOKAI Publication No. 08-315106) and the method in

which biological information, such as fingerprint information, is utilized other than a password (Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 05-127246) have been proposed.

5           However, in the conventional methods described above, the operation in which a password is actually inputted is not convenient to do by the reasons that the size of a camera equipment body is small and a user interface for inputting a password, such as a keyboard,  
10           operation buttons, or a display device, is insufficient as characteristics of a camera as a device.

          Although the problem regarding a user interface can be cleared in the method in which biological information is employed, a problem exists in which  
15           an analysis means for authorizing a camera user and various kinds of data therefor have to be taken into a camera, thereby resulting in great difficulty in the realization in terms of mounting.

          This type of problem is also derived in an  
20           information processing system comprising a radio communication terminal and an information appliance communicable with the radio communication terminal, for example, within a predetermined distance, such as about one meter, and a camera system comprising a radio  
25           communication medium and a camera communicable with the radio communication medium within a predetermined distance wherein each information processing system and

camera system authorizes an information appliance user and a camera user, or a subject, or both of them.

Keeping the point mentioned above in mind, it is a problem of the present invention to propose a method  
5 in which a user can perform the process for authorizing an information appliance user and a camera user, or a subject, or both of them through a simple operation and by which mounting in a camera can be easily executed.

#### BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 The present invention is developed concerning the above mentioned circumstances, and it is an object of the present invention to provide an information processing system comprising a radio communication terminal and an information appliance communicable with  
15 the radio communication terminal within a predetermined distance and a camera system comprising a radio communication medium and a camera communicable with the radio communication medium within a predetermined distance wherein each information processing system and  
20 camera system authorizes an information appliance user and a camera user, a subject, or both of them.

(1) In order to achieve the above described object, according to one embodiment of the present invention, provided is an information processing system  
25 comprising a radio communication terminal and an information appliance communicable with the radio communication terminal within a predetermined distance,

the information appliance comprising: a storing part  
for storing information peculiar to a user of the  
information appliance; a radio communication part for  
reading information from the radio communication  
5 terminal; and an authorization part for authorizing  
the user of the information appliance by collating  
information from the radio communication terminal read  
at the radio communication part with information  
peculiar to the user of the information appliance  
10 stored in the storing part, and the radio communication  
terminal comprising a storing part for storing  
predetermined information and a transmission part  
for receiving a radio signal transmitted from the  
information appliance and transmitting the predeter-  
15 mined information stored in the storing part as a radio  
signal.

(2) In order to achieve the above described  
object, according to another embodiment of the present  
invention, provided is a camera system comprising a  
20 radio communication medium and a camera communicable  
with the radio communication medium within a predeter-  
mined distance, the camera comprising: an image pickup  
part for obtaining image data by photographing a  
subject; a storing part for storing information  
25 peculiar to a user of the camera; a radio communication  
medium reading part for transmitting a predetermined  
radio signal and reading information from the radio

communication medium; an authorization part for  
authorizing the camera user by collating information  
read at the radio communication medium reading part  
with the camera user's own information stored in  
5 the storing part; and a record part for recording  
information related to the camera user authorized at  
the authorization part while connecting the information  
related to the camera user with the image data  
photographed at the image pickup part, and the radio  
10 communication medium comprising a storing part for  
storing predetermined information and a transmission  
part for receiving the predetermined radio signal  
transmitted from the radio communication medium reading  
part of the camera and transmitting the predetermined  
15 information stored in the storing part as a radio  
signal.

(3) Further, in order to achieve the above  
described object, according to another embodiment of  
the present invention, provided is a camera system  
20 comprising a radio communication medium in the side of  
a subject and a camera communicable with the radio  
communication medium within a predetermined distance,  
the camera comprising: an image pickup part for  
obtaining image data by photographing the subject;  
25 a radio communication medium reading part for  
transmitting a predetermined radio signal and reading  
information from the radio communication medium;

an information maintenance part for temporarily  
maintaining information from the radio communication  
medium of the subject side read at the radio communica-  
tion medium reading part as information peculiar to the  
5 subject; and an information record part for recording,  
while relating to a file of image data photographed,  
information peculiar to the subject maintained in  
the information maintenance part when an image is  
photographed employing the image pickup part, and the  
10 radio communication medium comprising a storing part  
for storing predetermined information containing the  
subject's own information and a transmission part for  
receiving the predetermined radio signal transmitted  
from the radio communication medium reading part of the  
15 camera and transmitting the predetermined information  
stored in the storing part as a radio signal.

(4) Furthermore, in order to achieve the above  
described object, according to another embodiment of  
the present invention, provided is a camera system  
20 comprising a radio communication medium in the side of  
a camera user, a radio communication medium in the side  
of a subject, and a camera communicable with each radio  
communication medium within a predetermined distance,  
the camera comprising: an image pickup part for  
25 obtaining image data by photographing the subject;  
a storing part for storing in advance information  
peculiar to the camera user; a subject information

acquisition mode setting part for setting the camera  
to a mode for acquiring information peculiar to the  
subject; a radio communication medium reading part for  
transmitting a predetermined radio signal and reading  
5 information from each radio communication medium;  
an authorization part for authorizing the camera user  
by collating information from the radio communication  
medium of the camera user side read at the radio  
communication medium reading part with the camera  
10 user's own information stored in the storing part;  
an information maintenance part for temporarily  
maintaining information from the radio communication  
medium of the subject side read at the radio  
communication medium reading part as information  
15 peculiar to the subject; and an information record part  
for recording, while relating to a file of image data  
photographed, the subject's own information maintained  
in the information maintenance part along with  
information related to the camera user authorized at  
20 the authorization part when an image is photographed  
employing the image pickup part in the case in which  
the subject information acquisition mode is set  
employing the subject information acquisition mode  
setting part, and each the radio communication medium  
25 comprising a storing part for storing predetermined  
information containing the camera user's own  
information or the subject's own information and a

transmission part for receiving the predetermined radio  
signal transmitted from the radio communication medium  
reading part of the camera and transmitting the  
predetermined information stored in the storing part  
as a radio signal.

(5) Moreover, in order to achieve the above  
described object, according to another embodiment of  
the present invention, provided is the camera system of  
any one of (2) to (4) described above, wherein the  
camera further comprises: a radio communication medium  
writing part; a random number generating part;  
an updating part for updating the camera user's own  
information stored in the storing part; and a  
processing part for performing a series of processing  
in which random numbers generated by the random number  
generating part are obtained, information based on the  
random numbers is transmitted to the radio communica-  
tion medium side for being recorded in the radio  
communication medium, employing the radio communication  
medium writing part, and the camera user's own  
information stored in the storing part is updated,  
employing the updating part when the camera user is  
authorized by the authorization part.

Additional objects and advantages of the invention  
will be set forth in the description which follows, and  
in part will be obvious from the description, or may  
be learned by practice of the invention. The objects



and advantages of the invention may be realized and obtained by means of the instrumentalities and combinations particularly pointed out hereinafter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

5           The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of the specification, illustrate presently preferred embodiments of the invention, and together with the general description given above and the detailed description of the preferred embodiments given below, serve to explain the principles of  
10           the invention.

          FIGS. 1A, 1B, 1C are schematic views for explaining an outline of a information processing system according to the first embodiment of the present  
15           invention.

          FIGS. 2A, 2B are schematic views for explaining an outline of a camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

          FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing a constitution of the information processing system according to the  
20           first embodiment of the present invention.

          FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing the constitution of a first concrete example of a camera system according to the second embodiment of the present  
25           invention.

          FIG. 5A is a view showing an example of a camera user's own information list stored in a user

information storing part 14 of the side of a camera 301 of a camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5B is a view showing an example of the camera user's own authorization information of the user ID=1 of FIG. 5A stored in a non-contact IC card as a radio communication medium 303.

FIG. 6 is a block diagram showing the constitution of a second concrete example of a camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 7 is a view diagrammatically showing a series of processing flow of the second concrete example of the camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8A is a view showing an example of a camera user's own information list stored in the user information storing part 14 of the camera 301 side and a camera's serial number corresponding to the camera user's own information of a camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8B is a view showing an example of the serial number of the camera corresponding to the camera user's own information of the user ID=1 of FIG. 8A recorded in the non-contact IC card as the radio communication medium 303.

FIG. 8C is a view showing an example of the serial

number of the camera corresponding to the camera user's own information stored in the non-contact IC card.

FIG. 9A is a view showing an example of a camera user's own information list stored in the user  
5 information storing part 14 of the camera 301 side and group's own information corresponding to the camera user's own information of a camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 9B is a view showing an example of the  
10 group's own information corresponding to the camera user's own information of the user ID=1 of FIG. 9A recorded in the non-contact IC card as the radio communication medium 303.

FIG. 10 is a schematic view for explaining  
15 an outline of a camera system according to the third embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 11 is a schematic view for explaining another example of a camera system according to the third embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 12 is a block diagram showing a constitution  
20 of an information processing system according to the third embodiment of the present invention.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Reference will now be made in detail to the  
25 presently preferred embodiments of the invention as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which like reference numerals designate like or corresponding

parts.

In the following, embodiments according to the present invention will be explained referring to drawings.

5           FIG. 1 is a schematic view for explaining an outline of an information processing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

That is, FIG. 1A exemplifies an information processing system 100 performing information processing  
10 by a radio communication (e.g., BlueTooth, IrDA employing an infrared ray, PHS/radio wave for a portable telephone or the like) between a transmission/reception part 101a of a radio communication of an information appliance 101, for example, such as  
15 a stationary type personal computer (PC), and a radio communication terminal 103 that a user 102 carries.

FIG. 1B exemplifies an information processing system 200 performing information processing by a radio communication between a transmission/reception part  
20 201a of a radio communication of an information appliance 201, for example, such as a camera, and a radio communication terminal 203 that a user 202 carries.

FIG. 1C shows a flow of a performing procedure  
25 of the information processing by the information processing system 100 or 200 as described above along a time base.

Suppose that the user 201 or 202 carrying the radio communication terminal 103 or 203 approaches the information appliance 101 or 201 while transmitting an information readout request from the

5 transmission/reception part 101a or 201a of the radio communication is repeated as processing in the side of the information appliance 101 or 201.

Then, as processing in the side of the radio communication terminal 103 or 203, the information  
10 readout request is received so as to transmit information appliance user's own information (e.g., a telephone number or the like).

Next, as processing in the side of the information appliance 101 or 201, the information appliance user's  
15 own information is received so as to perform a collation process for authorizing whether or not the user 102 or 202 is the true person, and according to the result of the collation process, the process of allowing use or rejecting use of the information  
20 appliance 101 or 201 is performed.

FIGS. 2A, 2B are schematic views for explaining an outline of a camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

That is, FIG. 2A exemplifies a camera system 300  
25 performing an authorization processing by a radio communication between a radio communication medium 301, such as a non-contact IC card that a user 302 carries,

and a camera 303 with a user authorization function,  
for example, within a predetermined distance, such as  
about one meter.

5 In this case, there are a rod type, a button type,  
a ring type, or the like as a non-contact tag of the  
radio communication medium 301 other than the non-  
contact IC card.

FIG. 2B exemplifies the case in which the user 302  
carries the radio communication medium 301, such as the  
10 non-contact IC card, in the state in which the user 302  
puts the radio communication medium in his wallet  
inside his pocket of trousers. However, carrying  
condition is not limited to this, and the user 302 may  
stores the radio communication medium 301 by a non-  
15 contact tag or the like on a button of clothing,  
a ring, a necktie pin, or the like.

(First Embodiment)

The information processing system according to  
the first embodiment of the present invention will be  
20 explained using FIG. 3.

In each drawings described below, the parts  
allotted to like reference numerals have like  
functions.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing a constitution  
25 of the information processing system according to the  
first embodiment of the present invention.

That is, the information processing system 100 is

constituted of the information appliance 101, a storage medium 104 of an outer part, and the radio communication terminal 103 radio communicating with the information appliance 101.

5           The radio communication between the information appliance 101 and the radio communication terminal 103 is performed via each antenna part 17 and 57.

10           The information appliance 101 is constituted of a GUI part 80, a file creating part 2, a header information creating part 3, a fixed disk 70, an image display part 5, a user interface part 6, a control part 7, a processor part 8, a working memory part 9, a program ROM part 10, a filing management part 11, a storage medium control part 12, an authorization  
15           information part 13, a user information storing part 14, an authorization processing part 15, and a radio communication terminal reading part 16, each connected to the antenna part 17 via an internal bus.

20           The radio communication terminal 103 is constituted of a memory part 581, a control part 582, a voice input part 59, a voice output part 60, and a user operation part 61, each connected to the antenna part 57 via an internal bus.

25           In this case, in order to enable radio communication between the information appliance 101 and the radio communication terminal 103 within a predetermined distance, such as about one meter, a communicable

distance can be adjusted by, for example, a method employing a standard, such as BlueTooth employing 2.45 GHz band, that is a micro wave, or IrDA employing an infrared ray.

5           The working memory part 9 is a memory for buffering the data transmitted from the radio communication terminal reading part 16 or the like via the antenna part 17 and the data in a halfway step of every kind of processing and loading a program stored  
10           in the program ROM part 10.

          The control part 7 is a part controlling an entire processing of the information appliance 101.

          That is, according to the constitution of the information processing system 100, provided is the  
15           information processing system characterized in that said system comprising the radio communication terminal 103 and the information appliance 101 communicable with the radio communication terminal, for example, within a predetermined distance, such as about one meter,  
20           wherein the information appliance 101 comprises the user information storing part 14 as a storing part storing the information appliance user's own information, the antenna part 17 and the radio communication terminal reading part 16 as a radio  
25           communication part for reading information from the radio communication terminal 103, and the authorization information part 13 and the authorization processing



part 15 as an authorization part for authorizing the user by collating information from the radio communication terminal 103 read at the antenna part 17 and the radio communication terminal reading part 16 as the  
5 radio communication part with the information appliance user's own information stored in the user information storing part 14 as the storing part, and radio communication terminal 103 comprises the memory part 581 as a storing part for storing predetermined  
10 information and the antenna part 57 and the control part 582 as a transmission part for receiving a radio signal transmitted from the information appliance 101 and transmitting the predetermined information stored in the memory part 581 as the storing part as a radio  
15 signal.

By the information processing system 100 like the above, information processing can be performed through a flow of the procedure as shown in FIG. 1A.

Suppose that the user 201 or 202 carrying the  
20 radio communication terminal 103 approaches the information appliance 101 while transmitting the information readout request from the antenna part 17 as the transmission/reception part 101a of the radio communication is repeated as processing in the side of  
25 the information appliance 101.

Then, as processing in the side of the radio communication terminal 103, the information readout

request is received at the antenna part 57 so as to read and transmit predetermined information of the information appliance user's own information (e.g., a telephone number or the like) from the memory part 581 as the storing part for storing the predetermined information of the information appliance user's own information (e.g., a telephone number or the like) by control of the control part 582.

Next, as processing in the side of the information appliance 101, by the processing of the authorization information part 13 and the authorization processing part 15 as the authorization part for authorizing the user by collating the information from the radio communication terminal 103 read at the antenna part 17 and the radio communication terminal reading part 16 as the radio communication part with the information appliance user's own information stored in the user information storing part 14 as the storing part, the information appliance user's own information is received so as to perform a collation process for authorizing whether or not the user 102 is the true person, and according to the result of the collation process, the process of allowing use or rejecting use of the information appliance 101 is performed.

In a concrete information processing system, in a user authorization system employing a portable telephone, a PHS, or the like, a telephone number is

used as the user's own information.

That is, characterized is that the radio communication terminal may be a portable telephone, the information appliance user's own information may be a telephone number, the telephone number differs for each user, and that the portable telephone hereafter can be a part for specifying an individual is utilized.

In a concrete information processing system, when a camera or the like as an information appliance is concerned, since there is, of course, no key board, a mouse, or the like, inputting a code number is difficult if only a camera is used. Thus, the code number is inputted by employing push buttons of the portable telephone, and further by using a communication function.

That is, the radio communication terminal is characterized in that the code number, in addition to the information appliance user's own information, is transmitted, employing an operation part (push buttons or the like) of the portable telephone.

According to a concrete example of an information processing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention described above, provided is a information processing system characterized in that the radio communication terminal reading part 16 as the radio communication terminal reading part of the information appliance 101 has a means by which a

directivity of an electromagnetic wave transmitted is made high.

Through the information processing system like this, a misoperation, such as a response of the radio communication terminal 103 of an adjacent person,  
5 can be prevented by making the electromagnetic wave transmitted in a predetermined direction without spread in various directions by making the directivity of the electromagnetic wave transmitted by the radio communication terminal reading part 16 as the radio  
10 communication terminal reading part high.

(Second Embodiment)

Next, a camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention will be explained  
15 employing FIGS. 4 to 9A, 9B.

In each drawings described below, the parts allotted to like reference numerals have like functions.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing the constitution  
20 of a first concrete example of the camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

That is, this camera system 300 is constituted of the camera 301, the storage medium 104 of the outer  
25 part, and the radio communication medium 303 radio communicating with the camera 301.

Radio communication between the camera 301 and the

radio communication medium 303 is performed via each antenna part 17 and 57.

5 The camera 301 is constituted of an image pickup part 1, the file creating part 2, the header information creating part 3, an image memory part 4, the image display part 5, the user interface part 6, the control part 7, the processor part 8, the working memory part 9, the program ROM part 10, the filing management part 11, the storage medium control part 12, 10 the authorization information part 13, the user information storing part 14, the authorization processing part 15, and a radio communication medium reading part 16a, each connected to the antenna part 17 via an internal bus.

15 The radio communication medium 303 is constituted of the memory part 581 and the control part 582, each connected to the antenna part 57 via an internal bus.

In this case, in order to enable radio communication between the camera 301 and the radio communication medium 303 within a predetermined distance, such as about one meter, there is a method 20 employing a non-contact IC (e.g., ISO/IEC14443 or ISO/IEC15693) employing a long wavelength band or the frequency band of 13.56 MHz, or a standard, such as 25 BlueTooth employing 2.45 GHz band, that is a micro wave, or IrDA employing an infrared ray.

In the case of the non-contact IC utilizing

an electromagnetic induction, in the method in which  
a standard, such as BlueTooth employing 2.45 GHz band,  
that is a micro wave, or IrDA employing an infrared  
ray, is employed, the communicable distance can be  
5 adjusted by also making the number of turns of a coil  
of communication antenna of a part where the  
information of the radio communication medium  
(terminal) is read and written an appropriate number.

The working memory part 9 is a memory for  
10 buffering data transmitted from the radio communication  
terminal reading part 16 or the like via the antenna  
part 17 and data in a halfway step of every kind of  
processing and loading a program stored in the program  
ROM part 10.

15 The control part 7 is a part for controlling  
an entire processing of the camera 301.

That is, according to the constitution of the  
camera system 300, provided is the camera system  
characterized in that said system comprises a radio  
20 communication medium 303 and the camera 301  
communicable with the radio communication medium 303,  
for example, within a predetermined distance, such as  
about one meter, wherein the camera 301 comprises the  
image pickup part 1 for obtaining image data by photo-  
25 graphing a subject, the user information storing part  
14 as a storing part for storing in advance the camera  
user's own information, the radio communication medium

By the camera system 300 like the above,

information processing can be performed through a flow of the procedure as shown in FIG. 1C.

Suppose that while transmitting the information readout request from the antenna part 17 as the transmission/reception part of the radio communication is repeated as processing in the side of the camera 301, the information readout request is received at the radio communication medium terminal 303 that the user 202 of the camera 301 carries.

Then, as processing in the side of the radio communication medium 303, the information readout request is received at the antenna part 57 so as to read and transmit predetermined information of the camera user's own information from the memory part 581 as the storing part for storing the predetermined information of the camera user's own information by control of the control part 582.

Next, as processing in the side of the camera 301, by the processing of the authorization information part 13 and the authorization processing part 15 as the authorization part for authorizing the camera user by collating the information from the radio communication medium 303 read at the radio communication medium reading part 16 via the antenna part 17 as the transmission/reception part of the radio communication with the camera user's own information stored in the user information storing part 14 as the storing part,



the information of the camera user's own information is received so as to perform a collation process for authorizing whether or not the user 202 is the true person, and according to the result of the collation process, the process of allowing use or rejecting use of the camera 301 is performed.

When the user 202 is authorized as the true person at the authorization information part 13 and the authorization processing part 15 as the authorization part, the information related to the camera user is recorded in the image memory part 4 for recording the camera user's related information while connecting it with the image data photographed at the image pickup part 1 by the control of the control part 7 as processing of allowing use of the camera 301.

FIG. 5A is a view showing an example of a camera user's own information list stored in the user information storing part 14 of the camera 301 side.

That is, in this example, the camera user's own information (authorization information: 19dle9awkf, z2tnfower;3, Yzev8&fd2, ... \$ekfg9sde3) is stored corresponding to the users IDs (1, 2, 3, ... n).

FIG. 5B is a view showing an example of the camera user's own authorization information of the user ID=1 of FIG. 5A, 19dle9awkf, recorded in a non-contact IC card as the radio communication medium 303.

FIG. 6 is a block diagram showing the constitution

of a second concrete example of the camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

That is, this camera system 300 is constituted of  
5 the camera 301, the storage medium 104 of the outer part, and the radio communication medium 303 radio communicating with the camera 301.

The radio communication between the camera 301 and the radio communication medium 303 is performed via  
10 each antenna part 17 and 57.

The camera 301 is constituted of an image pickup part 1, the file creating part 2, the header information creating part 3, the image memory part 4, the image display part 5, the user interface part 6,  
15 the control part 7, the processor part 8, the working memory part 9, the program ROM part 10, the filing management part 11, the storage medium control part 12, the authorization information part 13, the user information storing part 14, the authorization  
20 processing part 15, and the radio communication medium reading part 16a, a radio communication medium writing part 18, a random number generating part 19, and a user information updating part 20, each connected to the antenna part 17 via an internal bus.

25 The radio communication medium 303 is constituted of the memory part 581 and the control part 582, each connected to the antenna part 57 via an internal bus.

The second concrete example of the camera system is different in that the radio communication writing part 18, the random number generating part 19, and the user information updating part 20 are added to the first concrete example of the camera system mentioned above.

That is, according to the second concrete example of the camera system, provided is a camera system characterized in that in the first concrete example of the camera system described above, the camera 301 further comprises the radio communication medium writing part 18 as a radio communication medium writing part, the random number generating part 19 as a random number generating part, the user information updating part 20 as an updating part for updating the information recorded in the user information storing part 14 as a storing part for storing the camera user's own information, and the control part 7 as a processing part for performing a series of processing in which random numbers generated by the random number generating part 19 as the random number generating part are obtained, information based on the random numbers is transmitted to the side of the radio communication medium 303 for being recorded in the radio communication medium 303 via the antenna part 17, employing the radio communication medium writing part 18 as the radio communication medium writing part, and the camera

user's own information recorded in the user information  
storing part 14 as the storing part for storing the  
camera user's own information is updated, employing the  
user information updating part 20 as the updating part  
5 when the user 202 is authorized as the true person by  
the authorization information part 13 and the authori-  
zation processing part 15 as the authorization part.

FIG. 7 is a view diagrammatically showing a series  
of processing flow of the second concrete example of  
10 this camera system.

That is, before authorization processing,  
the camera user's own information (authorization  
information: Sasdf834kf, z2tnfower;3, Yzev8&fd2, ...  
\$ekfg9sde3) is stored corresponding to the users IDs  
15 (1, 2, 3, ... n) in the user information storing part  
14 of the camera 301 side as one example of a camera  
user's own information list, and the camera user's own  
authorization information of the user ID=1, Sasdf834kf,  
is recorded in the radio communication medium 303 that  
20 the user carries.

During the process of authorization processing,  
random numbers, "Ue8ssa9351" is generated by the  
random number generating part 19 in the side of the  
camera 301.

25 After the authorization processing, "Ue8ssa9351"  
corresponding to the random numbers generated by the  
random number generating part 19 of the side of the

camera 301 is recorded as information after updating in  
the radio communication medium 303, and a list in which  
the user ID=1 in the camera user's own information list  
is updated to "Ue8ssa9351" is stored in the user  
5 information storing part 14 in the side of the  
camera 301.

In the second concrete example of the camera  
system according to the second embodiment of the  
present invention, security can be improved through  
10 a so-called one time password like method by changing  
the camera user's own information as a password  
(information) every time the camera 301 is used.

Although the case in which the so-called one time  
password like means is employed is explained in order  
15 to improve the security since the IC card in which  
a CPU is not provided is supposed in the present  
embodiment, in the case of employing the IC card in  
which a CPU is provided, e.g., a Smart IC card with a  
code number processor, a means for improving security,  
20 such as a challenge response method which has performed  
in a information processing system which generally aims  
at an improvement in security, can be applied by  
providing a code number processing part even in a  
camera.

25 According to the first and the second concrete  
examples of the camera system according to the second  
embodiment of the present invention described above,

provided is the camera system characterized in that the camera 301 comprises the user interface part 6 as an input part by which the camera user requires that the authorization processing of the camera user is started and the control part 7 as a control part for supplying power to the radio communication medium reading part 16a as the radio communication medium reading part when the authorization processing of the camera user is required through the user interface part 6 as the input part so that the process for authorizing the camera user is performed through the method described in the first and the second concrete embodiments of the camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention described above and finishing supplying power to the radio communication medium reading part 16a as the radio communication medium reading part after a predetermined time passes.

Through this camera system, in the case in which the radio communication medium 303 is a non-contact IC card, consumption reduction of a battery power supply and energy saving can be attempted by supplying power to the camera 301 with a non-contact IC card reader function part only at the time of authorizing the camera user so as to usually.

That is, if the camera with the non-contact IC card reader function part is set so that electro-magnetic wave is always radiated/detected, in the case

in which the non-contact IC card reader function part like this is mounted on the camera, there is a necessity that power is always turned on, thereby causing a large amount of power consumption which is a problem.

Therefore, as described above, in the present camera system, only when the user employing the camera 301 pushes the button of an operation requirement that requires authorization processing, power is temporarily supplied to the non-contact IC card reader function part.

In this case, various types of timing may be considered as the operation requiring the authorization processing. For example, power is supplied to the non-contact IC card reader function part for only a second immediately after the power-on of the camera 301, and if the user cannot be authorized during this period of time, authorization may be considered as a failure.

Considered as other timing are that power is supplied to the non-contact IC card reader function part so as to perform the authorization processing when a shutter of the image pickup part 1 of the camera 301 is pressed, or a button or the like only for authorization is provided in the camera, and power is supplied to the non-contact IC card reader function part so as to perform the authorization processing when the button is pushed, or the like.

According to the first and the second concrete examples of the camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention described above, provided is a camera system characterized in that the camera 301 comprises the image memory part 4 as a record part for creating and recording at the header information creating part 3 information showing that the camera user is unclear on a header part of image data photographed at the image pickup part 1 of the camera 301 when authorization of the camera user by the authorization processing part 15 is failed.

By the camera system like the above, even when authorization of the camera user is failed, photographing itself of a picture or the like by means of the image pickup part 1 is possible.

In this case, since photographing parson information is not added on the image data obtained by the image pickup part 1, that the photographing is of the case in which authorization of the camera user is failed is recognized.

According to the first and the second concrete examples of the camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention described above, provided is a camera system characterized in that the camera 301 comprises the control part 7 as a control part for controlling so that photographing using the camera 301 is not performed until authorization of the



camera user succeeds by the authorization processing part 15.

By the camera system like this, when authorization is failed, since photographing using the camera 301 cannot be executed, photographing by a wrong camera user cannot be executed.

According to the first and the second concrete examples of the camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention described above, provided is a camera system characterized in that the camera 301 comprises the authorization information part 13 as an entry processing and entry cancellation processing part of the camera user and the control part 7 as a control part for controlling so that entry processing and entry cancellation processing can be performed by the authorization information part 13 as the entry processing and entry cancellation processing part of the camera user only when a predetermined camera user is authorized by the authorization processing part 15.

By the camera system like this, in the case in which the radio communication medium 303 is the non-contact IC card, a so-called non-contact IC card for a system manager is prepared, and it can be made that user entry/deletion processing or the like cannot be executed other than by the system manager.

In this case, substantially, in the manager side,

the mode in which allowing/rejecting use of the camera is determined according to success/failure of authorization of the camera user can be chosen.

According to the first and the second concrete  
5 examples of the camera system according to the second  
embodiment of the present invention described above,  
provided is a camera system characterized in that the  
camera 301 comprises the user interface part 6 as a  
switching part for selectively switching a first mode  
10 in which information showing that the camera user is  
unclear on a header part of image data photographed at  
the image pickup part 1 of the camera 301 is created at  
the header information creating part 3 and recorded  
in the image memory part 4 as the record part when  
15 authorization of the camera user by the authorization  
processing part 15 is failed and a second mode in which  
control is executed by the control part 7 as the  
control part so that photographing using the camera 301  
is not performed until authorization of the camera user  
20 by the authorization processing part 15 succeeds.

By the camera system like this, either of the  
first mode or the second mode in which  
allowing/rejecting use of the camera is determined  
according to success/failure of authorization of the  
25 camera user can be chosen in the user side (or the  
manager side).

According to the first and the second concrete

examples of the camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention described above, provided is a camera system characterized in that the camera system 300 contains information peculiar to the camera 301 as the camera user's own information stored in the radio communication medium 303, and the camera 301 contains the information peculiar to the camera 301 as information stored in the user information storing part 14 as the storing part for storing the camera user's own information.

By the camera system like this, in the case in which the radio communication medium 303 is the non-contact IC card, in order to avoid batting with other camera's user entry information (the information peculiar to the user using the camera), each camera individually can be managed by recording also information peculiar to the camera to be registered (e.g., camera's serial number) as information recorded in the non-contact IC card.

FIG. 8A is a view showing an example of the camera user's own information list stored in the user information storing part 14 of the side of the camera 301 and a camera's serial number corresponding to the camera user's own information of a camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8B is a view showing an example of the serial

number of the camera corresponding to the camera user's own information of the user ID=1 of FIG. 8A recorded in the non-contact IC card as the radio communication medium 303.

5           In this case, as shown in FIG. 8C, if the camera serial number (123456) part is used for authorization as information peculiar to the camera to be registered corresponding to the camera user's own information (Ks#die934), each camera individually can be managed.  
10          However, if the serial number part is not used for authorization, one non-contact IC card can be used for authorization in a plurality of cameras.

          According to the first and the second concrete examples of the camera system according to the second  
15          embodiment of the present invention described above, provided is a camera system characterized in that the camera system 300 contains information peculiar to a group jointly using the camera 301 as the camera user's own information stored in the radio communication  
20          medium 303, and the camera 301 contains the information peculiar to the group jointly using the camera 301 as information stored in the user information storing part 14 as the storing part for storing the camera user's own information.

25          By the camera system like this, setting a so-called sharing group becomes possible by expanding information peculiar to a user who uses a camera, and

a camera (or a plurality of cameras) can be used by a plurality of users of the sharing group.

FIG. 9A is a view showing an example of a camera user's own information list stored in the user information storing part 14 in the side of the camera 301 of a camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention and group's own information corresponding to the camera user's own information.

FIG. 9B is a view showing an example of the group's own information corresponding to the camera user's own information of the user ID=1 of FIG. 9A recorded in the non-contact IC card as the radio communication medium 303.

According to the first and the second concrete examples of the camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention described above, provided is a camera system characterized in that the camera 301 comprises the control part 7 as a control part for controlling so that when a part of information peculiar to a group using the camera coincides by collating information read at the radio communication medium reading part 16a as the radio communication medium reading part with the camera user's own information stored in the user information storing part 14 as the storing part for storing the camera user's own information in the authorization processing part,

photographing using the camera becomes possible, and when it does not coincide, photographing using the camera is prohibited.

5 By the camera system like this, at the time of authorizing a user, only when information peculiar to the group in the information peculiar to the user using the camera coincides, the camera can be used (photographing becomes possible), thereby improving convenience for a guest user.

10 In this case, if a part other than the information peculiar to the group in the information peculiar to the user using the camera (i.e., information peculiar to a specific user using the camera) does not coincide, information showing that the photographer is not clear  
15 is recorded on the header of the image data as described above.

According to the first and the second concrete examples of the camera system according to the second embodiment of the present invention described above,  
20 provided is a camera system characterized in that the camera 301 comprises a control part for controlling so that the directivity of the electromagnetic wave transmitted from the radio communication medium reading part 16a as the radio communication medium reading part  
25 becomes high.

By the camera system like this, by making the directivity of the electromagnetic wave transmitted

from the radio communication medium reading part 16a  
as the radio communication medium reading part high  
so that the electromagnetic wave does not spread in  
various directions and transmits in a specific  
5 direction, a misoperation, such as a response of the  
radio communication medium 303 of an adjacent person,  
can be prevented.

(Third Embodiment)

Next, a camera system according to the third  
10 embodiment of the present invention will be explained  
employing FIGS. 10 to 12.

FIG. 10 is a schematic view for explaining an  
outline of a camera system according to the third  
embodiment.

15 This camera system according to the third  
embodiment shown in FIG. 10 is made supposing a medical  
examination authorization system applied when a doctor  
examines a patient at a hospital or the like.

FIG. 10 shows an example in which at the time of  
20 photographing employing a camera 403 with a user  
authorization function by a radio communication and  
a subject information acquisition function, the doctor  
as a camera photographer 408 has the photographer  
authorized by holding a non-contact IC card/tag 401  
25 which he owns to a camera 403. Then, he switches to  
a subject information acquisition mode by means of  
a subject information acquisition mode set button 403a

5

10

15

20

25

25

Then, the doctor as the photographer 408 switches



to the subject information acquisition mode by means  
of the subject information acquisition mode set button  
403a or the like attached to the camera 403 and has the  
patient hold the IC card 402 of the patient 409 as the  
5 subject to the camera 403.

In the image file 406 photographed, the  
information 406b containing doctor's information and  
patient's information as shown in the drawing is added  
to the image 406a photographed.

10 In this case, as methods for adding information,  
information may be recorded on a header of a file, such  
as JPEG, or TIFF, or may be recorded in the image 406a  
as a digital watermark.

15 Further, as another method of adding information,  
information may be stored and managed in a different  
file from an image file related to the image file 406.

By these kinds of methods, managing the image file  
406 becomes easy for the doctor as the photographer 408  
later, and further an accident in which an image of  
20 the subject 409 as a patient is taken by mistake for  
a diagnosis can be prevented.

Moreover, the non-contact IC card 402 of the  
subject 409 as the patient, for example, can be  
employed for inputting the name of the patient in  
25 a clinical chart 407 without mistake by holding it to  
an information terminal 405 at the time of creating the  
clinical chart, or can be utilized for a delivery of

a medicine or a confirmation of a patient at the time of operation.

In the explanation described above, although the patient as the subject 409, that is, a human, is exemplified, the subject is not necessary to be a human.

For example, as shown in FIG. 11, information of photographing part can be recorded at the time of photographing along with information of the photographer 410 by setting an IC tag 411 for each place to be checked as in the case of checking a body of an airplane 412 as a subject.

FIG. 12 is a block diagram showing a constitution of a camera system according to the third embodiment of the present invention.

That is, this camera system 400 is constituted of a camera 403, a storage medium 104 of an outer part, a radio communication medium 401 for a photographer radio communicating with the camera 403, and radio communication medium 402 for a subject.

The radio communication between the camera 403 and each radio communication medium 401, 402 is executed via the antenna parts 17, 57.

The camera 403 is constituted of the image pickup part 1, the file creating part 2, the header information creating part 3, the image memory part 4, the image display part 5, the user interface part 6,

the control part 7, the processor part 8, the working  
memory part 9, a program ROM part 10A, a filing  
management part 11A, the storage medium control part  
12, the authorization information part 13, the user  
5 information storing part 14, the authorization  
processing part 15, the radio communication medium  
reading part 16a, the radio communication medium  
writing part 18, the random number generating part 19,  
and a mode setting part 21, each connected to the  
10 antenna part 17 via an internal bus.

Each radio communication medium 401, 402 is  
constituted of the memory part 581 and the control part  
582, each connected to the antenna part 57 via an  
internal bus.

15 In the constitution of the present camera system,  
the difference from the constitution of the camera  
system of FIG. 6 described above is that the mode  
setting part 21 corresponding to the subject  
information acquisition mode set button 403a is added  
20 to the camera 403 part. Other than that, a radio  
communication function with the radio communication  
medium 401, 402 for a photographer and a subject is  
provided in the antenna part 17. Further, since  
a procedure in a process and a method of a file  
25 management for temporarily storing subject information  
in the working memory part 9 (in the case of storing  
the photographer's and subject's information in a

different file from an image file) differ, the program ROM part 10A and the filing management part 11A differ.

That is, according to this constitution of the camera system, provided is a camera system characterized in that the camera system comprises the radio communication medium 401 in the side of the camera user 408 or 410, the radio communication medium 402 or 411 in the side of the subject 409 or 412, and the camera 403 communicable with the radio communication medium 401, 402, or 411 within a predetermined distance, wherein the camera 403 comprises the image pickup part 1 for obtaining image data by photographing the subject 409 or 412, the user information storing part 14 as a storing part for storing in advance the information peculiar to the camera user 408, 410, the image memory part 4 as an information record part for recording, while relating to a file of the image data, information peculiar to the subject 409 or 412 photographed employing the camera 403, the radio communication medium reading part 16a as a radio communication medium reading part for transmitting a predetermined radio signal via the antenna part 17 and reading information from each radio communication medium 401, 402, 411 via the antenna part 17, the authorization information part 13 and the authorization processing part 15 as an authorization part for authorizing the camera user by collating information from the radio communication

medium 401 of the camera user 408, 410 side read at the  
radio communication medium reading part 16a as the  
radio communication medium reading part with the camera  
user's own information stored in the user information  
5 storing part 14 as the storing part, the working memory  
part 9 as an information maintenance part for  
temporarily maintaining information from the radio  
communication medium 402 or 411 of the subject 409 or  
412 side read at the radio communication medium reading  
10 part 16a as the radio communication medium reading part  
as information peculiar to the subject 409 or 412, and  
the control part 7 as a means for recording information  
peculiar to the subject 409 or 412 that is information  
read from the radio communication mediums 402, 411  
15 maintained in the working memory part 9 as the  
information maintenance part, employing the image  
memory part 4 as the information record part while  
relating the subject's own information to a file of  
image data photographed when an image is photographed  
20 employing the image pickup part 1, and wherein each  
radio communication medium 401, 402, 411 comprises the  
memory part 581 as a storing part for storing predeter-  
mined information containing the information peculiar  
to the camera user 408, 410 or the information peculiar  
25 to the subject 409 or 412 and the antenna part 57  
and the control part 582 as a transmission part for  
receiving the predetermined radio signal transmitted

from the radio communication medium reading part  
16a and the antenna part 17 of the camera 403 and  
transmitting the predetermined information stored in  
the memory part 581 as the storing part as a radio  
5 signal.

According to a constitution of a camera system,  
provided is a camera system characterized in that the  
camera system comprises the radio communication medium  
401 in the side of the camera user 408 or 410, the  
10 radio communication medium 402 or 411 in the side of  
the subject 409 or 412, and the camera 403 communicable  
with the radio communication medium 401, 402, or 411  
within a predetermined distance, wherein the camera 403  
comprises the image pickup part 1 for obtaining image  
15 data by photographing the subject 409 or 412, the user  
information storing part 14 as a storing part for  
storing in advance the information peculiar to the  
camera user 408, 410, the image memory part 4 as an  
information record part for recording, while relating  
20 to a file of the image data, information peculiar to  
the subject 409 or 412 photographed employing the  
camera 403 along with the information peculiar to the  
camera user 408 or 412, the mode setting part for 21  
as a subject information acquisition mode setting part  
25 for setting the camera 403 to a mode for acquiring  
information peculiar to the subject 409 or 412, the  
radio communication medium reading part 16a as the

radio communication medium reading part for  
transmitting a predetermined radio signal via the  
antenna part 17 and reading information from each radio  
communication medium 401, 402, 411 via the antenna part  
5 17, the authorization information part 13 and the  
authorization processing part 15 as the authorization  
part for authorizing the camera user by collating the  
information from the radio communication medium 401  
of the camera user 408, 410 side read at the radio  
10 communication medium reading part 16a as the radio  
communication medium reading part with the camera  
user's own information stored in the user information  
storing part 14 as the storing part, the working  
memory part 9 as the information maintenance part for  
15 temporarily maintaining the information from the radio  
communication medium 402 or 411 of the subject 409 or  
412 side read at the radio communication medium reading  
part 16a as the radio communication medium reading part  
as the information peculiar to the subject 409 or 412,  
20 and the control part 7 as a means for recording the  
information peculiar to the subject 409 or 412 that is  
the information read from the radio communication  
mediums 402, 411 maintained in the working memory part  
9 as the information maintenance part, employing the  
25 image memory part 4 as the information record part  
along with the information related to the camera user  
authorized at the authorization information part 13 and

the authorization processing part 15 as the authorization part while relating the information to a file of image data photographed when an image is photographed employing the image pickup part 1 in the case in which the subject information acquisition mode is set  
5 employing the mode setting part 21 as the subject information acquisition mode setting part, and wherein each radio communication medium 401, 402, 411 comprises the memory part 581 as the storing part for storing  
10 predetermined information containing the information peculiar to the camera user 408, 410 or the information peculiar to the subject 409 or 412 and the antenna part 57 and the control part 582 as the transmission part for receiving the predetermined radio signal  
15 transmitted from the radio communication medium reading part 16a and the antenna part 17 of the camera 403 and transmitting the predetermined information stored in the memory part 581 as the storing part as a radio signal.

20 Included in the realm as the information appliance in the above are not only a PC and a workstation, of course, but also an automobile, a household electric appliance, a digital camera, a digital video camera, digital recording/reproducing apparatus, and the like  
25 which are considered to be progressed informationally hereafter.

As explained in the above, according to the



present invention, it is possible to provide an  
information processing system and a camera system  
authorizing an information appliance user and a camera  
user, or a subject, or both of them in the information  
5 processing system comprising a radio communication  
terminal and an information appliance communicable with  
the radio communication terminal within a predetermined  
distance and in the camera system comprising a radio  
communication medium and a camera communicable with the  
10 radio communication medium within a predetermined  
distance.

Additional advantages and modifications will  
readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore,  
the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to  
15 the specific details and representative embodiments  
shown and described herein. Accordingly, various  
modifications may be made without departing from the  
spirit or scope of the general inventive concept as  
defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.